

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 54/55

December 2007/January 2008

No. 9/1



## Calendar

Sat., Dec. 22	Monthly winter farmer's market, 9 am–12 noon, Penn Place	Mon., Jan. 14	Christmas tree collection; Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Tues., Jan 1	New Year's Day reception, Town Hall, 4–6 pm	Tues., Jan 15	<i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Jan. 3	Jam session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Jan 17	Jam session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Jan. 7	Christmas tree and monthly yard waste collection	Fri., Jan 18	Film Society, Town Hall, 7 pm: <i>Destry Rides Again</i> (see p 5)
Tues., Jan. 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm	Wed., Jan. 23	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, topic TBD
Sat., Jan. 12	Large item pickup; Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6:30 pm (see p 4)		

## Transitional *Bugle* Issue

You'll notice that this month's issue has an unusual double number and date: it's both Volume 54, December 2007, No. 9, and Volume 55, January 2008, No. 1. As you have probably observed, other monthly publications usually appear before the beginning of the month, so that we expect to receive our March *Frog Fancier* at the end of February. Some people have found it confusing, therefore, that the *Bugle* comes out when the month is almost over. So beginning with this month's issue, we are making a change. From now on, although the *Bugle* will appear at the same time each month, the issue will be named for the upcoming month.

## Council Notes from a FAR

December's Town Council meeting was a bit more sedate than we've become used to in the last few months. That's because we've moved from discussions of impeachment to calculations of floor area ratio (FAR).

Simply put (because we don't do math), FAR is the ratio of a building's floor area to the area of the land on which the building sits. It's an intricate calculation that doesn't count certain spaces, such as attics with low ceilings. Well, the town recently investigated the possibility that the builder of a home under construction on Rokeby Avenue turned too much of the attic into livable

*(continued next page)*

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(continued from previous page)

space, possibly exceeding the FAR limit for our community, which caps the total livable floor space of the house (and any accessory buildings) to no more than 37.5 percent of the land area. Harry Gordon, chair of the town’s setback advisory committee, reported that the builder has worked with the town to lower part of the attic ceiling and make other adjustments. Discussion ensued about whether a future resident might be able to undo the corrective action. Apparently the answer is yes. But, said Harry, it would be difficult and expensive. The builder confirms that raising the ceiling would involve major electrical work and rerouting of the sprinkler system.

The FAR theme continued, as Jay Hansen, president of the Garrett Park Estates-White Flint Park Citizens Association, addressed the Council about growth near White Flint Mall. Simply put (because we don’t do real estate), there’s a mess of buildings people want to build along the Pike. And in some cases, the FAR would be at least double the land area. So they’re worried, but not panicking. As so often happens at Council meetings, Town Administrator Ted “The Sage” Pratt weighed in, with a timely reminder that development is mighty difficult to stop. Rather, he suggested, try to push for greater control of your community, particularly through overlay zoning.

When it came time for citizens’ presentations, Peter Benjamin, who has been both a mayor and councilmember, had a few choice words. When last he was on the Council, Peter had been working on a capital assets survey of the town: a baseline inventory and evaluation of the town’s physical assets with notes on maintenance, life expectancy, and estimated costs for repairs and replacement. The report, compiled by an engineering firm, had been deemed overly technical and poorly written. In the meantime, because of his appointment to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Peter stepped down from the Council. He agreed, however, to bring the assessment report to completion.

Now, as you may recall, Councilmember Charles Berry has been complaining for many

months now that the survey was done in secret, and that his many attempts to attend meetings and become involved have been rebuffed. That led Charles, as reported at the November council meeting, to file a freedom of information request for all town documents pertaining to the assessment.

Well, apparently the town complied. But, according to Peter, Mayor Shawaker instructed the engineering contractor to deliver its next draft to her and then released the still-unfinished report to the Councilmembers. Furthermore, Peter said, his working papers, including e-mails and other notes that should have been confidential, were included in the material released by the Mayor, an action that Peter said threatened to quash his ability to write anything meaningful, violated trust, and discredited the office of Mayor. Simply put (because we don’t do subtlety), he was ticked.

Defending herself, the Mayor said the Council needs to be engaged, especially since there are three new members. Jack Mandel, one of those new members, said he would have preferred to be consulted before “you make a decision to go around process.”

Taking his turn to comment, Charles Berry expressed his disappointment, saying he had anticipated Peter would partner with the new Council to produce a report in a spirit of cooperation and transparency.

The matter ended—for the time being—with a motion from Hans Wegner that the Council empower Peter to work with the contractor to finish the report, which is scheduled for an early 2008 delivery. The motion passed.

By now, the hour was approaching 11 pm, and everyone’s beauty sleep beckoned. But the small matter of a monthly financial report remained. Leave it to Ted Pratt to save the day again. Here-with, the full text of his report: “Everything’s fine.”

Richard Folkers



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

**Snow removal:** Our first snowstorm has occurred, and it was not too bad. However, “the North Wind will blow and we shall have snow,” so in order to help Butch, Frank, and Jose keep our streets clear, please keep the following in mind:

- Park cars off the streets when snow is predicted.
- Do not block intersections, particularly the Kenilworth/Rokeby barricade. This allows access for emergency vehicles and speeds up plowing.
- Keep sidewalks in front of your homes shoveled. The Town Maintenance Department will take care of Penn Place and the Town Hall. Please call the Town Office if you would like a list of young residents who are interested in shoveling snow.
- Remember that Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park. Should the hill become icy, the hill will be cleared or sanded.
- Remember that driveways are not plowed as part of the town’s snow removal contract. Residents are asked to clear their own driveways all the way to the street.

If any residents have special concerns about access to their homes during or after a snowstorm, please contact the Town Office so that we can be aware of them and provide assistance as needed.

We will make every effort to push back driveways and clear out snowbound cars. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town office (301-933-7488).

**Leaf Removal, Yard Waste:** Leaf removal has finished. Please do not put leaves in the street, they should be bagged and will be removed with the yard waste. Remember, yard waste is collected on the second Monday of January (January 14) and the first Monday of February (February 4). We will return to weekly collection in March.

**Trash Collection, Large Items, & Christmas Trees:** Trash and recycling will take place on the usual days through the holidays. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 12. Christmas trees will be collected during the yard waste collection on January 12.

**Holiday Tips:** Many residents have given generously to the Holiday Tip Fund for the men who collect our trash. If anyone wishes to make a gift, it is not too late. We typically receive numerous contributions after Christmas and make a second “New Year” distribution to these deserving individuals.

**Town Dinner:** The Town Dinner is on Saturday, January 12. Save the date!

Elizabeth, Barbara, Butch, Frank, and Jose join me in wishing all Town residents a happy Holiday Season. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301 933-7488. (The office will close at noon on Friday, December 21, and will be closed December 24, 25, and 31 and January 1.)

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

## A Humdinger of a Sing

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Do-it-Yourself Carol-Fest Sing-Along was a rousing success with a full house in attendance. The flowers presented at the end of the evening were a nice “icing on the cake.” And yes, there was an anniversary cake to celebrate the longevity of the event.

Thanks must go to Sue Numrich for conducting with such enthusiasm, to Ronnie Sauvain for her delicious refreshments, to Ronnie and Marian Green for decorating the Town Hall, and to the Women’s Club for sponsoring the event. I’ve had a lot of fun over the past 25 years directing a small group of singers, getting the whole party organized, and sorting the music after everything is over. We hope to see you next year to continue the tradition.

Mary Moyer

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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ From the PO: Please pick up your packages promptly to help us keep our aisles clear in the back. You must present your yellow card to get the packages. They also wish everyone a happy holiday season.
- ♪ Jane Franklin has a new address; she has moved up north of us to be nearer to her daughter Betsy and family. Her new address is 3200 Baker Circle, I-104, Adamstown, MD 21710. We'll miss you, Jane.
- ♪ Emily Nguyen is teaming with her friend Sebastian Lara to collect old and new books for children up to age 12. If you have any you can donate, get in touch with them by e-mail at [landnproject@yahoo.com](mailto:landnproject@yahoo.com) or visit their Web site at [thelnproject.weebly.com](http://thelnproject.weebly.com).

## Letter from the Mayor

We got through our first snow wonderfully well with our own crew doing all the snow removal and sanding. We now have equipment that allows Butch, Frank, and Jose to do everything. The whole event cost the town only a little over \$300. The crew is ready to take on the next "wintry mix."

Last Monday evening, Delegates Barve and Gilchrist and Senator Forehand came to meet with the Town Council and Citizens Association for dinner and dessert with townspeople. Afterwards they gave us an overview of the Special Legislative Session as well as the upcoming regu-

lar session. The entire town staff worked together as a team to make it a lovely and productive evening. Ted, Elizabeth, Butch, Frank, Jose, Barbara, and Mary Ruttkay are a great gift to our town, as are all of our residents who give of their time and talent to help the town.

Eddie and I attended the Town of Kensington light ceremony last Sunday evening. The Orthodox Rabbi who spoke talked about the universal symbol of light, saying that each of us has the spark within us to provide the light of joy and love to those around us. I wish you peace and joy in this season and the new year.

Carolyn Shawaker

## Town Dinner Is Coming

This year's Town Dinner will be on Saturday, January 12, at the Town Hall. Meeting, greeting, and munching will begin at 6 pm and formal eating at 6:30. As in past years, this is a super pot luck supper. Along with your own serving utensils, you are asked to bring one of the following: appetizers, salad and breads, main dish, or dessert (enough for 8 to 10 people). *Bring your own eating utensils!* A fee of \$5 will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, drinks, and paper goods. You can also pay your Citizens Association dues at the same time.

Since space is limited, it is suggested that you call in your reservation and what you will be bringing to share to Mary Moyer as soon as possible. If you would be willing to help in the decoration of the Town Hall on that morning (January 12, 10 am), we need you. Come join us that evening in welcoming the new year to our town and having a say in who is elected to the next Citizens Association board (the vote will be the first order of business after dinner). Since this year's "theme" is the 70's, break out your tie dyes and beads, and come to sample some fine Garrett Park cooking. I wonder what stories will be told about those "groovy" years. Were you even born then?

Mary Moyer

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## We're Still Green!

Florence Gootenberg has given us the money for this issue to continue with our green banner. She has donated it in honor of her husband "Santa Roy," who for years was the town's volunteer welcoming committee to the holiday season. We thank you Florence, and remember Roy fondly.

Mary Moyer

## Top Ten Reasons ...

Why You Need to Buy a 2008 Season Pass to the Garrett Park Film Society! (Or at least attend *Destry Rides Again* on January 18—and thanks to Henri and Chris Keller for paying the licensing fees for this movie!)

10. We must be doing something right—this is our sixth year of showing films.
9. Wonderful equipment, including a 12-ft-wide screen, great visuals and sound.
8. An excellent chance to see about 50 of your neighbors for no other reason but to have fun.
7. Members receive letters before each film reminding them of the date and theme of the film (sometimes including coupons for soft drinks and popcorn; see reason 2).
6. Newcomers to town get in free for the first movie. Call Leslie Bethke-Pope.
5. Eight films in 2008 for \$25 per individual or \$40 per family! That's beyond a bargain. Call Barbara Rodes.

4. There must be something intangible when several members provide additional support, some way above and beyond the basic membership. And we have nearly 100-percent renewal!
3. There must be something going on when more and more neighbors volunteer to help cook, sell, clean up, participate.
2. Great food, prepared by volunteers, available at very reasonable prices. Also, coupons for soft drinks and popcorn (when available) are handed out to all members who have renewed (and to new members as well).
1. It is a great way to spend a Friday night—even if you start out tired! And it really doesn't matter if you've seen the movie before or have home theater. We give great community at the Garrett Park Film Society.

We are planning to have food that makes you think of the West in January: BBQ, beans, ... any volunteers out there? Call Suzanne Grefsheim or Meme Lincoln.

## Garrett Park Film Society: 2008 Film List

January 18: *Destry Rides Again* (American, 1939), Comedy. Jimmy Stewart and Marlene Dietrich in a classic Western that combines suspense, comedy, romance, songs, tragedy, horseplay, and vivid characterization. See why Lord Beaverbrook said, "Marlene Dietrich standing on a bar in black net stockings, belting out *See What the Boys in the Back Room Will Have*, is a greater work of art than the Venus de Milo." Be prepared for a very entertaining evening!

February 15: *Avenue Montaigne* (French, 2006), Comedy, Drama. This is our Valentine's Day treat. "An absolute must for Francophiles and a great choice for anyone who loves a vibrant ensemble dramedy, *Avenue Montaigne* is a bustling delight, a slice of Parisian artistic life that will have you dialing Air France the morning after you see it." Subtitled. Suitable for early teens.

April 4: *Crash* (American, 2005), Crime, Social Issues. Described by one reviewer as "compelling, brilliant, gripping, constantly surprising—everything cinema should be," it won the Academy Award for best picture in 2006. This thought-provoking film will be followed by a discussion of the issues it raises about the human condition and living in the modern world. Suitable for mature teens.

June 20: *Legend of the Drunken Master* (Hong Kong, 1994) Comedy, Martial Arts. Jackie Chan, the world's biggest action star, mixes high-proof action with a twist of his trademark humor. Elaborate acrobatic fight sequences are captured in this unusual film. Suitable for teens and the rest of us! Subtitled.

July 18: *East is East* (English, 1999), Comedy, Drama. This film presents the cultural clash in a Pakistani-English family when the father attempts to arrange the marriages of his sons. You will be struck by the universality of family dynamics and have a good laugh in the bargain. Kid-friendly and in English.

September 5: *Children of Heaven* (Iranian, 1997), Comedy, Drama. A "perfect movie for children" and adults, according to Roger Ebert. The film offers a window into a culture and country about which we know little, yet reveals much about what we all have in common. Subtitled. Suitable for ages 8 and up.

October 17: *Election* (American, 1999), Comedy. As we head into the 2008 election, come enjoy this hilarious look at a campaign for Student Body President. Tracy Flick (Reese Witherspoon at her best) is the hyper-ambitious solo candidate until civics teacher Jim McAllister (Matthew Broderick in good form) encourages a dim but popular football player to run. Chaos ensues. You will laugh while nodding in recognition at the elements of ambition, corruption, and desire that can be found in real-world elections.

November 21: *Rules of the Game* (French, 1939), Comedy, Drama. Suitable for mature teens, this film, directed by Jean Renoir (Pierre-Auguste's son), is considered one of the greatest movies of all time by many film critics. The story is an upstairs-downstairs comedy of manners set in a French country estate, but it is the "masterly visual design" that takes "the black and white film to the realm of immortality" according to reviews. Subtitled.

# Art at Penn Place

The current exhibit in the Penn Place gallery space features the work of two area watercolor artists, Nancy Koran of Bethesda and Susan Moses of Silver Spring. Both women have been painting for some time, and both are active members of several local and regional arts organizations. Susan Moses’ interest in art began when she accompanied her mother on painting expeditions. She went on to earn an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and taught art in public school in New York and Maryland. Nancy Koran worked for many years as a journalist before beginning to take formal art courses at Montgomery College. Both artists have a Garrett Park connection: they have both been students of our own Martha Seigel. Susan Moses has taken classes with Martha off and on for 15 to 20 years and has found them a wonderful way to meet, and be inspired by, other artists.

Moses and Koran met and discovered their mutual interest in painting, when they were neighbors with small children. With children grown and more time to devote to art, they decided to go out painting together. The location in which they chose to work was the grounds of the old National Park Seminary in Forest Glen. The delightful, but crumbling, collection of eccentric buildings and statuary at the former exclusive girls’ school was a perfect subject for artists who were interested in nature, local scenes, and architecture. They continued to paint until it got cold, and then took photographs which they used to paint indoors. They also became fascinated by the rich history of the site and befriended the preservationists who were trying to save it.

The results of their extended painting expedition is a show that is different from any that the Penn Place gallery has shown previously, in that it showcases the work of two artists working in the same media and observing the same subject. Be sure to make the trip upstairs from the post office to see this exhibit. If you haven’t already discovered the charms of Forest Glen, the beautifully executed paintings in this show are bound to spark your interest. The show continues through January 6.

# Holiday Greens

Besides decorating with greenery around your house (if you haven’t been to Mount Vernon during the holiday season, it’s an inspiration!), there are many ways to evolve your holidays without sacrificing cherished traditions. Here are just a few suggestions:

*Cards.* Send the new entries on your list e-mail cards; there are many new and creative Web sites that will save you paper, transportation, and postage. If you still love the feel of “real” greetings, choose cards made from recycled paper, without coating or glitter. And don’t throw away the ones you receive! I’ve heard of several great suggestions, including cutting them up for gift tags for next year, and even using them in place of index cards to keep your recipes.

*Presents.* Again, there are many beautiful wrapping papers for all special occasions now made from recycled paper, or just use outdated maps, the comic section from the newspaper, and recycled gift bags. Or be really creative, and use baskets, flowerpots, bandannas, or other “wrappings.” A reusable tote bag (that can be used to haul groceries or in place of those endless CVS bags) could be the perfect thing for some slightly larger presents.

*The tree.* By the time you read this, your family will have already decided whether to get a tree, and whether it is a live tree that can be replanted later, or a locally cut one. Fortunately, Garrett Park has a pickup service that will chip trees, but you can also cut off the branches to begin a brushpile, and if you have a fireplace, you can use the trunk for firewood next year.

The Garrett Park CAN (Climate Action Now) Committee wishes you all a relaxing, fun, and safe holiday season!

Lisa Kaeser

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Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:  
[www.garrettpark.org/](http://www.garrettpark.org/)

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